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LETTER DATED 31 OCTOBER 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter of today's date from H.E. Mr. Muhamed Sacirbey, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressed to you.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 31 October 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

In April and May 1993, by its resolutions 819 (1993) and 824 (1993), the Security Council declared Srebrenica and Zepa "safe areas" in order to secure the safety of the population therein. In July 1995, the "safe areas" of Srebrenica and Zepa were overrun, with thousands of innocent people being massacred, while the rest were subject to other crimes, including rape and ethnic cleansing. Properly and courageously, the Government of the Netherlands has undertaken an inquiry concerning the response of its own troops and authorities as well as the role of the international community as a whole. The United Nations, in particular the Security Council, must exhibit also the necessary responsibility and courage and undertake its own review. If not for the sake of the thousands of victims, then the Council should undertake this review for the sake of its own credibility by determining why its own resolutions were undermined.

In particular, I call the Security Council's attention to the report of the Netherlands Government, which should raise serious questions about the conduct of United Nations-mandated officials. In addition, the Council should pay special heed to glaring contradictions in the information provided by some, including most senior officials of the United Nations Protection Force to the Council.

Srebrenica and Zepa happened during the Security Council's watch. With all due respect, this unprecedented crime requires special attention and action by the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Minister for Foreign Affairs